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departments



features

on the cover

Summer is the perfect time to entertain outdoors. For your next at-home party, get creative and consider expert tips from local party planners beginning on Page 18. Photo by Lloyd Flanders

PUBLISHED BY MBH PUBLISHING, LLC

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PRINTING .... DROR International

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editor's note



Part of the fun of summer is entertaining outdoors. From a festive picnic or backyard barbeque to a high-style cocktail party, there are tons of creative ways to celebrate with friends in your own home.

On Page 18, local party planners share expert advice on how to throw the perfect summer party even if you have a limited budget. Get creative with the things you already have in your home instead of buying items you won't use after the party. Rather than going with an over-the-top theme for your party, integrate a signature color into your décor to add a touch of sophistication to your event. Find out about these tips and more, as well as some unique party ideas to make sure your next at-home event is a hit.

Then on Page 24, in honor of Father's Day on June 21, find out how to create the ultimate man cave for the special man in your life. Comfortable seating, surround sound, a flat-screen TV, a billiard table and poker set — these are all the elements necessary to create the complete guy's room.

Have fun entertaining this summer!

AMANDA FLATTEN
Editor

Coming Next Month ...

Special Insert: Mind & Body

Design & Decor

Buying the Perfect Piece of Art

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Printed on Recycled Paper

around town June 2009

By **MARIE WILLIAMS**



Saturday, June 20 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. search for bugs in the soil, under leaves and on the bark of trees during Texas Discovery Garden's Bug Hunt.

Learn how to create an easy-to-prepare menu bursting with Mediterranean flavor Friday, June 5 at 6:30 p.m. at Sur la Table, 4527 Travis St., Dallas. "**Date Night: Under the Stars**," will also give couples short cuts and various tips for enjoying a quiet dinner or putting together a party for friends. Cost is $160 per couple. Then on Saturday, June 6 at 10:30 a.m., during Chef Kathy Hume's "**Summer Pasta Workshop**," learn how to use summer's freshest ingredients to create delectable dishes perfect for any grilled entrée and find out handy tricks for making scrumptious al dente pasta every time. Cost is $69. Information: 214.219.4470 or www.surlatable.com

Kittrell/Riffkind Art Glass, 5100 Beltline Rd., Ste. 820, Dallas, presents "**Featured Artists Series 2009**." Featured artists include: Michael Hermann, Gina Lunn, Andrew Noga and Alexis Silk. Tom and Sage Holland, along with Beau Anderson showcase their jewelry. An opening reception is Saturday, June 6 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The exhibit runs through July 5. Information: 972.239.7957 or www.kittrellriffkind.com

View more than 50 African-American artists' work at the Amon Carter Museum, dating back to the late 1800s to present day. "**The Harmon and Harriet Kelley Collection of African-American Art: Works on Paper**," is on display from June 6 to Aug. 23. The Kelley Collection is a private collection and features more than 90 works on paper. Admission is free. The museum is located at 3501 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth. Information: 817.989.5067 or www.cartermuseum.org

Discover the lifecycle of the dragonfly and 75 species of dragonflies during "**Winged Jewels — Dragonflies**," Saturday, June 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Texas Discovery Gardens, 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dallas. This workshop is led by Omar Bocanegra, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Admission is $25 or $20 for garden members. Registration is required. Then on Saturday, June 20 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., search for bugs in the soil, under leaves and on the bark of trees during "**Bug Hunt**." Uncover familiar ones you might find in your own back yard, while learning about new, colorful bugs as well. Admission is $3 for adults, $1.50 for kids ages 3 to 11, $2 for seniors or free with paid garden admission. Information: 214.428.7476 or www.texasdiscoverygardens.org

Be a part of Fort Worth's western heritage at the **Fort Worth 10 Year Anniversary Cattle Drive**, Saturday, June 13 at 11:30 a.m. Participants may bring their own horse and drive The Herd along the Trinity River, have lunch at CowCamp and ride in the epic anniversary cattle drive. This event is located at 131 E. Exchange Ave., Fort Worth. Tickets are $75. Information: 817.336.4373 or www.stockyardsstation.com

Relax near the Martin Rutchik Concert Stage overlooking White Rock Lake as you enjoy one of many concerts put on by the Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road, Dallas. **Cool Thursdays** feature concerts from a variety of bands and entertainers from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. each Thursday. On June 18, Kraig Parker will pay tribute to Elvis Presley with performances of the King's hits. Information: 214.515.6518 or www.dallasarboretum.org

MDesigns, an interior design company, is hosting **Design Camp '09**. The five-day camp is broken up into three age groups and design focus groups with enhancement in areas such as organizational skills, color techniques, creating design boards, presenting design schemes to clients, along with measuring and calculations for fabric. "Mom, I Want a Big Girl Room" for ages 5 to 7 is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 8 to 12 and June 29 to July 3. "From Girls Room to Teen Hangout" for ages 11 to 14 is 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on June 15 to 19 and July 6 to 10. "Designing Your Dorm Room" for graduating seniors is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 22 to 26. All camps will be held at the interior design offices of M Designs, 1801 Royal Lane, Ste. 810, Dallas. Cost is $350 for one-week with materials included. Information: 972.869.4914 or www.mdesignsinteriors.com

If you like fun competition in a social atmosphere, then you'll want to experience **Holiday Retirement Sharp Chef Culinary Competition** June 6 at 2 p.m. at Pinewood Hills, 3901 Kirkpatrick Ln., Flower Mound. The top chefs of Holiday Retirement will battle it out, using secret ingredients. Enjoy local vendors distributing information and small gifts as well as door prizes being given throughout the afternoon. The Sharp Chef competition begins at 3 p.m. The suggested admission fee is a nonperishable food item to benefit Christian Community Action's Food Pantry. Information: 972.355.8844 or www.holidaysharpchef.com


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By **MARIE WILLIAMS**



Kent Moore Cabinets announced the opening of a new 77,000-square-foot addition to its manufacturing facility and the acquisition of a new property and office building to house the company's corporate headquarters in Bryan, Texas.

Kent Moore Cabinets announced the opening of a new 77,000-square-foot addition to its manufacturing facility and the acquisition of a new property and office building to house the company's corporate headquarters. The additional space extends to more than 300,000 square feet and accommodates the assembly, warehousing and shipping departments. The new headquarters will also house a design studio/showroom and training facility. Both the new manufacturing facility and corporate headquarters are located in the Brazos County Industrial Park in Bryan, Texas. For more information, call 979.492.3059 or visit www.kentmoorecabinets.com.

Complete Landsculpture won the **2009 Consumers' Choice Award** for Landscape Design and Maintenance. This award is an initiative of Consumers' Choice Institute, which has retained a leading independent research firm for conducting surveys in major Canadian and U.S. cities. Winners are determined by consumers and not by a panel of judges. The purpose of the award is to recognize the measured results of consumer opinion for Best in Class Businesses in the DFW metro area. Complete Landsculpture has been the recipient of this award for three consecutive years, distinguishing itself with excellent client service. For more information, call 214.358.5296 or visit www.completelandsculpture.com.

Hunter Douglas, the leading manufacturer of custom window fashions in North America, launched its new spring product line in May. New additions and enhancements have been made to meet consumer's needs for better energy efficiency, style, convenience and child safety for their homes. **SmartLooks Window and Wall Décor** carries the Hunter Douglas line and is located at 101 S. Greenville Ave., Richardson. For more information, call 972.699.1151 or visit www.hunterdouglas.com.

The UnScene Photography Tour and **Decorazon Gallery** in Dallas is hosting a **Gallery Contest**. Anyone 18 years of age or older has the opportunity to upload their collection of photographic work at www.unscenetour.com for a chance to exhibit at a prominent gallery. Five finalists will be chosen and the winner will have up to 15 prints showcased at the Decorazon Gallery for up to four weeks. The winner also gets curating time, an opening night reception, marketing, as well as prints and mounting paid for by the UnScene team. Each artist is asked to submit up to 15 photographs for $25. The submission deadline is June 30. For more information, call 310.857.6994 or visit www.unscenetour.com.

Jane Hamley Wells, a Chicago-based contemporary furniture company, announced the merging of its new showroom with **ID Collection** of Dallas. Jane Hamley Wells has earned a solid reputation within the design and architecture community for its collection of sleek and innovative furniture from fresh new designers. ID Collection is located in the Dallas Design Center, featuring 25,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor furniture, including textiles. All Jane Hamley Wells collections will be available through the Dallas showroom. For more information, call 773.281.5767.

EmbroidMe, a full-service embroidery company, is offering personalized gifts just in time for Father's Day. EmbroidMe can personalize most items from polo shirts and caps, to towels, bath robes, t-shirts and many golf bags. The options are limitless, so don't just settle for "off the shelf" gifts for dad. The EmbroidMe showroom is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and located at 1630 Valwood Pkwy., Ste. 116, Carrollton. For more information, call 972.247.9933 or visit www.embroidme-metrocrest.com. H&H



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Sleek Efficiency

A 1970s kitchen is updated

Photography By KEN VAUGHAN

PROBLEM

When Chris Black, owner of CB Construction, initially met with his clients, it was evident that their kitchen needed an update. The kitchen hadn't been remodeled since the '70s, and the homeowners wanted the new kitchen to include more storage and a more efficient layout. Doors were falling off the cabinets, there were numerous plumbing leaks, there was not enough cabinet or countertop space and the kitchen was closed off from the home's other living areas.

"We proposed adding an island to improve the efficiency and provide a work surface and staging area close to all work areas," Black says. "The small size of the kitchen limited the size of the island, so we built the island out of steel pipe with a kidney-shaped countertop to minimize the bulk while still providing maximum functionality."

To open up the kitchen, CB Construction removed all doors and replaced them with wider arched openings. "We widened the old pass-through to the den by removing an inefficient pantry and added a bar top to tie the two rooms together," Black says. "We also created space for a wine bar and desk workstation by removing a water heater at the far end of the old kitchen."

SOLUTION

By incorporating the island, a work surface was positioned no farther than 4 feet from any point in the kitchen. It also allows traffic to flow around the sink and range, reducing choke points.

"We were able to add 14 linear feet of countertop by adding the island, eliminating the built-in pantry and relocating the water heater," Black adds. "We more than doubled the amount of cabinet storage space."

The wine bar was designed to keep hard liquor out of the reach of the children and in one location. To eliminate the possibility of carbon monoxide entering living spaces, the gas water heater was removed and replaced with a tankless unit in the attic.

"The owners contemplated the possibility of repairing the original cabinets to save money and reduce waste," Black says. "We suggested a line of Lyptus cabinets we carry and showed them the green benefits of using a fast-growing, renewable hardwood."

New can lights were placed over the main work areas for general lighting, and a decorative pendent fixture was added to provide accent lighting. Under-counter zenon task lights illuminate food preparation areas.

KEY PLAYERS

CONTRACTOR:
CB Construction Co., 5711 Mercedes Ave., Dallas, www.cbconstructionco.com

GRANITE INSTALLATION:
IMC Granite from Custom Design & Remodeling

DOORS & TRIM:
Wilson Plywood & Doors, www.wilsonplywood.com

CABINETS: Custom Wood Products, www.cwpcabinetry.com

FLOORING:
AAA Floors

PLUMBING:
Plumbing By Design

MASONRY:
MTH Construction Group

APPLIANCES:
Jenn-Air Appliances from Zetley Distributors

LIGHTING:
Lights Fantastic, www.lightsfantastic.com

STEEL FABRICATOR:
M-Works Steel Inc.

By JEFFREY JACOBY

Creative Reuse

In the holy trinity of environmental advocacy — the omnipresent three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle — the first and last receive the lion's share of attention from an increasingly adoring segment of the public and private sectors. The middle child, Reuse, languishes in obscurity, oft-forgotten outside the limelight of its more popular brothers. More Americans recycle than vote these days, and almost everyone sees the necessity to reduce our consumption of natural resources and the wasteful byproducts of that consumption. However, the idea of reuse is rather foreign in our culture of disposability. Over the course of the past 50 or so years, we have moved away from a society that reuses or repairs old products to one that consumes and trashes them.

And it's not entirely our fault: in most cases, unsustainable product design is the real culprit, playing wastrel archnemesis to the penny-wise middle "R." Put another way, a stainless steel toaster oven manufactured in the United States in 1958 is not the same as a plastic toaster oven manufactured in China in 2008. As a result, toaster oven repair shops (along with vacuum repair shops, shoe repair shops, even television repair shops) grow more and more obsolete as products become more and more disposable. In the 21st century, durability has become somewhat passé as tech-knowledgeability has become chic. Masses flock to the next hip product while the last hip product is buried in the closet or, worse, the landfill.



A great example of reuse is the work of Enno de Kroon who uses egg crates and egg cartons instead of a traditional canvas. Above: Chinese man 3; Eggcubism, acrylic on egg carton. Enno de Kroon, 2009. $1,300. www.ennodekroon.nl

A typical consumer product's life expectancy has dwindled to about six months. Six months (!) between date of purchase and date of disposal. Buy it, use it, toss it, buy it again. The cycle continues. And this is where we, the consumers of all of this stuff, enter the fold. By creatively and practically reusing obsolete products, we can extend dramatically the lifespan of our stuff and, in the process, throw a wrench into the cycle of disposability and obsolescence.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: CREATIVE AND PRACTICAL REUSE

In the art world, the middle "R" has been a celebrity for years, ranging from rock art to Basquiat. Perhaps as a creative exercise or maybe as a matter of economic necessity, generations of artists have imaginatively transformed the detritus of consumer culture into works of aesthetic value.

Today, egg crates and egg cartons have become popular substitutes for traditional canvasses, as evidenced by the fascinating work of Enno de Kroon. Columbian artist Mario Langer and a number of others turn old electronics into intricate concept pieces. The Heidelberg Project led by Tyree Guyton makes use of refuse such as automobile components, vacuums and construction debris to convert an entire Detroit street into an elaborate environmental art wonderland. However, you need not be an enigmatic genius in order to reuse old stuff. In fact, you probably have items in your home right now just waiting to go from the scrap heap to the showroom floor.

All reuse possesses an element of creativity. Creating junk art out of farm equipment differs from turning a worn-out hiking boot into a whimsical planter only in its functionality. In fact, using old stuff in new ways can add character to your home improvement projects at a fraction of the cost while simultaneously reducing your environmental footprint and making your guests clamor over your cleverness.

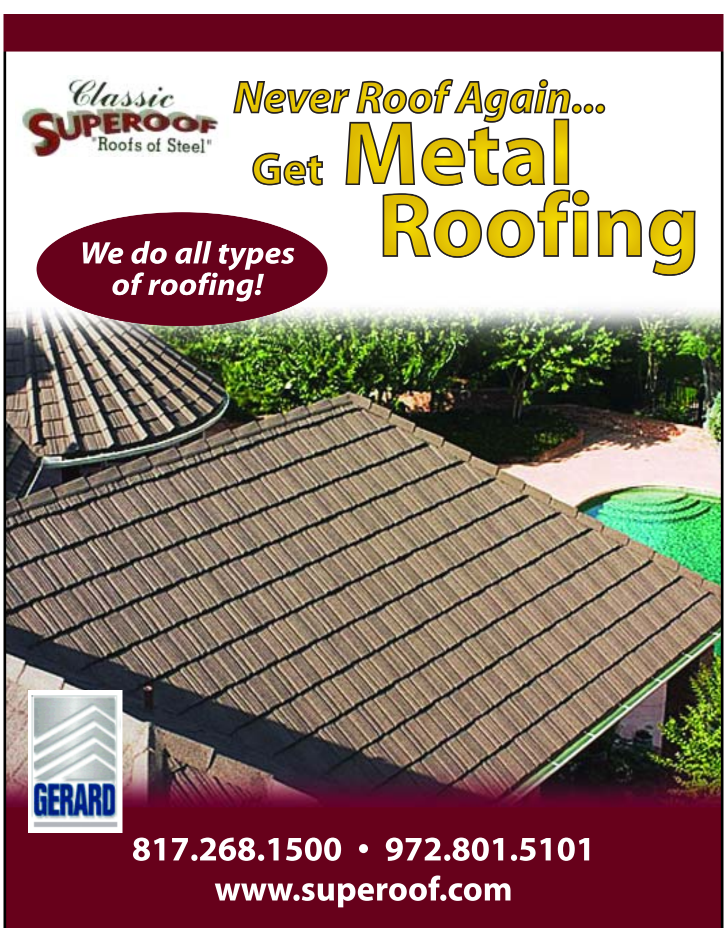
One of my favorite practical reuse projects involves a ladder and a handful of tea bags. To build a stylish and functional bookshelf, find a used tri-fold ladder and bend it into three sections. Across each section, lay down wooden planks, then stain the wood with old tea bags. It's a great entertainment center at minimal cost. You can also make a trendy handbag by stitching together old blue jeans or a crocheted urban-chic hat by weaving together disposable plastic grocery bags. For all of the gardeners out there, CD jewel cases make terrific miniature greenhouses for sprouting plants or saplings. If you're able to spend some quality time with your reuse project, make a lounge chair and ottoman by gluing together thousands of colorful soda straws. The possibilities are endless: all you need is a sense of curiosity, coupled with a bit of patience, to turn the waste of our consumer culture into eco-friendly functionality for your home.

A NEW (BUT ACTUALLY VERY OLD) WAY

Creative and practical reuse is not a new concept. The idea hearkens back to a time when consumers purchased a product based on its long-term value, its durability, its capacity to stand the test of time. Even though the times have changed and disposable gadgets rule the day, you can save a piece of nostalgia by salvaging pieces otherwise destined for the dump. In doing so, you might just help create a new (old) way.

Jeffrey Jacoby is program director for Texas Campaign for the Environment, a grassroots nonprofit working locally and statewide to press for sustainable waste and recycling policies. Call 214.599.7840 or visit www.texasenvironment.org.


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SUMMER ENTERTAINING

ABOVE: Throw a cozy backyard get-together in your outdoor living room. With a complete kitchen outdoors, you won't have to leave your guests for one moment. This space was created by Bonick Landscaping. Photo by Sara Donaldson

BELOW: An outdoor, at-home event can be classy and elegant with crisp white linens and place settings by Ducky-Bob's Event Specialists.



AT-HOME PARTIES WITH PIZZAZZ

By **AMANDA FLATTEN**

There is something about summertime that gets us in the party mood. While economic reasons may be keeping you home instead of taking that tropical vacation this year, staying at home this summer doesn't have to be boring. More and more homeowners are thinking of unique ways to entertain at home. We asked local expert party planners for tips to make your next at-home party a smash.

TIP 1: USE WHAT YOU ALREADY HAVE

Get creative when hosting a party in your home. "You don't have to go out and buy a bunch of things that you won't use later," says Executive Event Planner Tamara Harris, owner of Eventfully U, a full-service event planning firm. "Look around your house to see what you



When entertaining indoors or outdoors, make the dinner table more interesting with a variety of chair styles, as shown here by Tara Wilson Events.

already have and make the party a reflection of your style. For example, you can use a wall mirror as a serving piece."

For those things you do need to buy, you don't have to break the bank. "Go bargain shopping," Harris says. "You can find great items at discount stores, such as Big Lots, Ross, Dollar Tree and the clearance section at Pier 1."

TIP 2: PICK A SIGNATURE COLOR

Rather than choosing a theme, such as Hawaiian or Western, Harris suggests choosing a signature color when preparing for an upscale event. "Be careful not to carry a theme too far," Harris says. "If you have a luau theme, choose a color and integrate it into table linens and décor."

Jay Cooper, director of marketing for Ducky-Bob's Event Specialists, says during summer parties, turquoise tablecloths and napkins are popular, especially with Caribbean themed events. "Orange and lime works well if you are serving a Mexican menu," he says.

▶



Lend your dinner party a French Bistro feel and let guests get a sneak peek at what's for dinner with a menu board. Photo courtesy Tara Wilson Events



Event Specialist Tara Wilson prepares the table before a dinner party. Wilson says you should make or preassemble as much of your meal in advance as possible to cut down on stress before the big event.



If you don't have matching stemware and place settings for the special evening you have planned at home, Ducky-Bob's Event Specialists can provide dishes, glasses, linens, chairs and also deliver it all to your home so you don't have to worry about anything except entertaining your guests.



Skip the formal dinner and have a smashing cocktail party outdoors, complete with appetizers, specialty drinks and cocktail tables. Photo courtesy Ducky-Bob's Event Specialists



Skip the e-vites and mail a hand-written note to invite your guests to your party. From Nest, the Bell'Invito Studio collection is the perfect party invitation for summer.

TIP 3: MANAGE YOUR TIME

Plan ahead, and don't wait until the day before a party to go shopping. "Pick up décor, tables, chairs, and order food at least a week before your party to reduce stress," Harris says.

Make or preassemble as much of your meal in advance as possible, says local event planner Tara Wilson, owner of Tara Wilson Events. "Many sauces, dressings and dry ingredients can be mixed hours or even days ahead of time. Staying ahead of the curve will help you enjoy your party."

Even if you are grilling out, Harris suggests grilling before the guests arrive and keeping the food warm in the oven so you can enjoy yourself and prevent guests' clothing from smelling like barbecue smoke.

TIP 4: MASTER THE BUFFET

There is no need for a structured dinner in the heat of summer. A buffet is very cost effective, and it doesn't need to be boring. "Presentation is everything," Harris says. "Set food up on elevated platters and get creative. If you have a tight budget, you could go to Home Depot and get 12 by 12 tiles or a marble slab, wrap in clear plastic wrap and use as a serving piece."

▶


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Use your best platters and serving pieces no matter if your event is indoors or outside. Appetizers and bite-sized treats are great to serve at any party. Photo courtesy Tara Wilson Events

small party ideas

WINE PAIRING EVENT
Similar to a Pampered Chef party, host a Wine Pairing party. A specialist will bring different types of wines to your home and teach your guests how to pair different wines with different types of foods. "This is a very elegant party, and you learn different techniques of wine tasting," says Executive Event Planner Tamara Harris, owner of Eventfully U. Harris recommends WineShop At Home (www.wineshopathome.com) as a local resource.

If you want to go it alone, ask guests to bring different bottles of wine and different types of cheese so you can create your own pairings.

MOJITOS AND MEXICAN
For small girlfriend get-togethers, have a Mojitos and Mexican food party. Everyone can bring a different Mexican dish and experiment with various mojito recipes. Try this same concept with any number of food and drink items.

COOKING CLASS
Hire a chef to come to your home to teach a group of friends how to prepare a few special dishes. This is a great way for everyone to get involved in making the meal for the evening, and your guests will walk away with cooking tips from a professional chef.

HOMEMADE ICE CREAM PARTY
Few things are more refreshing than homemade ice cream. Offer guests a variety of toppings, or to spice things up a bit, "offer guests liquors as an alternative to traditional toppings and serve in chilled antique brandy glasses," suggests Tara Wilson, owner of Tara Wilson Events. "For party favors, give each guest the recipe for your homemade ice cream as well as the main ingredients needed so they can make it for themselves at home."

resources

EVENTFULLY U
214.747.8222
www.eventfullyu.com

TARA WILSON EVENTS
817.764.2601
www.tarawilson.com

DUCKY-BOB'S EVENT SPECIALISTS
3200 Belmeade Dr.,
Ste. 130
Carrollton
972.381.8000
www.duckybobs.com

If you don't have all the serving pieces you need for your buffet, Ducky-Bob's Event Specialists has a number of serving and buffet options, from silver to white china patterns to pewter. "Make your buffet interesting by using an assortment of different materials in the same shape or all one material in different shapes," Cooper says.

TIP 5: ADD CANDLELIGHT & FLOWERS

"Candlelight enhances and adds elegance to any event," Harris says.

If you are hosting a party outdoors at night, add floating candles to the pool to create an enchanting atmosphere. Place clusters of candles rather than one on a table. Harris says citronella candles now come in sophisticated containers, providing the beautiful glow of candlelight while keeping the insects at bay. "You can get great citronella candles from Pier 1 for around $5," Harris adds.

Fresh flowers are perfect for any occasion. "Flowers should be fresh and brought in the evening before the dinner party," Wilson says. Fill a vase with beautiful garden flowers, or create a cluster of small bud vases with single stems to add a refreshing touch to the table.

TIP 6: BRING THE INDOORS OUTSIDE

Share all your best with guests, even when dining outdoors. Pair indoor dining chairs with your rustic outdoor table. Use your special crystal pitcher to serve a fruity drink, silver platters to serve food and metal bowls for fresh fruit.

TIP 7: ADD A PERSONAL TOUCH

Forgo the e-vites. "For a dinner party it is appropriate to mail a handwritten note to invite your guests," Wilson says. "You want your guests to feel special and pampered. Receiving an invitation through the mail lets your guests know to expect something different, something more than pizza and beer."

TIP 8: STAY COOL OUTSIDE

Overcome the summer heat. "For a backyard soiree rent small fans with misters," suggests Wilson. "Place them behind shrubs and potted plants to reduce their visibility and add a soft 'wind in the trees' effect."

TIP 9: HAVE A DISASTER PLAN

Inevitably, something will go wrong at the last minute, so you must be prepared. "Disaster can strike when you least expect it," Wilson says. "Should you burn the main course or leave a key ingredient out of your world famous dessert, make certain you have a backup plan. Mixed nuts and gourmet cheeses, simple pasta dishes and decorative cookies all can be life savers. Keep the pantry stocked with a few of these items and you'll never be caught off guard."

TIP 10: GET EXPERT ADVICE

If you can't afford to hire a party planner for your event, consider a consultation. "We can give you ideas, tips and tools to pull off the event on your own," Harris says.

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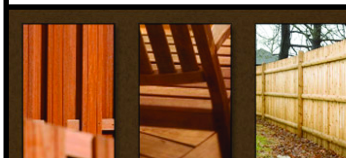
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THE COMPLETE MAN CAVE

ABOVE: This ultimate man cave was created by Titan Home Theater. A mix of comfortable theater seating, a large screen TV and behind the scenes theater equipment make the room perfect for watching sports and action flicks with the guys.

MAKE FATHER'S DAY EXTRA SPECIAL WITH A GUY ROOM FEATURING ALL THE LATEST GADGETS

By **MARIE WILLIAMS**



Style and comfort can be part of the man cave with this classic leather piece from The Leather Sofa Co.

Father's Day is a traditional holiday full of basic gifts from department stores such as hats, shirts, ties or expensive cologne.

On this day, dads everywhere want to spend quality time with their families. Fishing and barbecues are typical, but the gift that keeps on giving is a special room for relaxation, games and watching sports — the ultimate man cave.

COMFORTABLE SEATING

A man cave can be in a big or small room, but one element that must be present is comfortable furniture, such as a nice leather couch or lounge chair. Jamie Knott, a sales representative at Leather Sofa Co., says the store has more than 1,000 different types of leather to choose from. Any piece of furniture sold can be custom built to match anything a guy might already own.

"We have many styles of furniture, but our most popular ones are the Rique, Penthouse and Pisa," Knott says. "The Rique is a theater sofa and can be purchased with or without ottomans. Tony



The more games in a man cave the better, and no guy's room would be complete without a billiard table and poker table such as these by Universal Billiards.

Romo came in last year and bought this style in black for his home. He also has two individual Penthouse chairs."

The Penthouse is a row of reclining theater seats with arms attaching them together that can also be purchased individually. The Pisa, a reclining sofa, provides recliners at each end for maximum comfort. These are sold with or without power controls.

HOME THEATER EQUIPMENT

When putting together a man cave, the home theater equipment can make or break the room. Ryan Adams, a technical representative at Titan Home Theater, explains exactly what guys are looking for.

"The ultimate man cave experience must have a great audio system, a large screen, comfortable seating and the perfect sporting event, movie or video game," Adams says. "Most every man will want the largest screen and loudest speakers possible."

Equipment can be expensive, and some guys may need a few budget-friendly options necessary to complete their own room. According to Adams, the budget for an Audio/Video man cave is dictated by how elaborate the décor is and how intense the equipment will be. On average, equipment can run from $7,000 to $12,000.

A HOME FOR ALL THE GADGETS

Carefully crafted cabinetry to house all the gismos and gadgets has become a staple for a man cave. Tim Kennedy, owner of Stone Creek Cabinets, says cabinets can be done in a black contemporary ▶



Leather recliners and theater seating from the Leather Sofa Co. are great options for any man's room.

resources

LEATHER SOFA CO.
Multiple locations
Dallas: 972.980.7866
www.leathersofaco.com

STONE CREEK CABINETS
5401 E. 14th Street, Plano
972.800.1121
www.stonecreekcabinets.com

TITAN HOME THEATER
5212 Tennyson Pkwy. # 200
Plano, 469.229.011
www.titanhometheater.com

UNIVERSAL BILLIARDS
972.731.7778
www.universalbilliards.com





ABOVE: Custom, built-in cabinetry by Stone Creek Cabinets houses all the gismos, gadgets, books and games.

LEFT: The BESTÅ TOFTA TV solution from Ikea, starting at $40 per piece

or all wood stained finish. The most popular requests are for walnut and cherry finishes. Cabinets are built from 3/4-inch hardwoods and plywood and can be designed built-in or free-standing. "We build everything to the customer's specifications, while offering a free in-home consultation as well," Kennedy says.

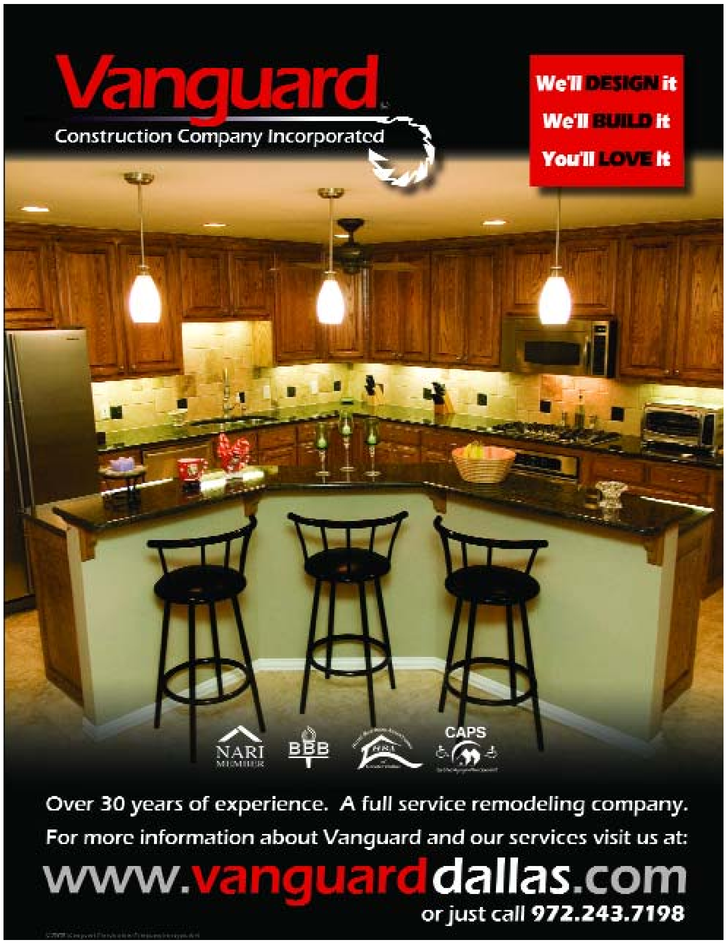
GAMES, GAMES AND MORE GAMES

Most guys want more than a plasma television or stereo system to entertain guests and friends. Daniel Cuevas, sales manager at Universal Billiards, says billiard tables, poker sets and air hockey tables are the most commonly purchased items. "We sell more than 50 different billiard tables, made out of solid or maple wood, 2-in-1 poker table sets and Valley Dynamo and Performance Game air hockey tables."

A shuffleboard is a fun item and can vary in length and size. The three most popular are the Classic at 9 feet, the Elite at 12 feet and the Championship at 22 feet. The store also sells pool table lights, cue stands, arcade games and pinball machines.

"Universal Billiards' trained design consultants help all of our customers add a personal touch to the look of their home at a value that can't be matched," Cuevas says.

With Father's Day just around the corner, give the man in your life a sanctuary he can call his own — the ultimate hideaway where "boys will be boys." H&H



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Hot Off the Grill



Apple-Glazed Pork Kabobs



Grilled Lobster with Champagne Butter

Outdoor entertaining and casual barbeques are the name of the game during the summer months. When it comes to grilling, local chef Cole Croghan knows best.

Last year Croghan's cookbook, *The Ultimate Tailgaters Cookbook*, was published by Dockery House Publishing and sold at Dick's Sporting Goods. The book shares recipes from various geographical regions of the United States — from grilled lobster in the Northeast to fish tacos in the Southwest.

Croghan is also the corporate regional chef for Holiday Retirement, the largest provider of upscale independent retirement living facilities in North America. The company has a number of North Texas locations, including The Bentley in Dallas, Cottonwood Estates in Plano, the El Dorado in Richardson and Pinewood Hills in Flower Mound to name a few. Each facility offers residents "from-scratch" cooking from trained chefs three times a day, plus snacks. "We have nutritionists and dietitians on staff to help us plan balanced meals and reduced sugar meals for diabetics," Croghan says.



Barbecue Prawns with Corn Relish

Residents can expect unique meals, such as the catch of the day, orange glazed pork tenderloin, scones for breakfast, and bananas foster, chocolate truffle cake and raspberry whip cream rolls for dessert. "A big part of our residents' socialization revolves around the dining room," Croghan says.

To keep its chefs competitive, on June 6 at 2 p.m., five chefs from Holiday Communities in North Texas will participate in the Sharp Chef competition, hosted at Pinewood Hills, 3901 Kirkpatrick Ln., Flower Mound. The public is welcome and the admission fee is a nonperishable food item, which will be donated to the Christian Community Action Food Pantry.

Perhaps the Sharp Chef competition will inspire you to host your own party featuring a grilling competition among friends. To make your backyard barbeque a hit, Croghan says to get creative with marinades. "Some things need to marinate over night or longer, so make sure to plan ahead," he says. Here are a few special recipes from Croghan's *The Ultimate Tailgaters Cookbook.*

Grilled Lobster With Champagne Butter *Serves 4*

4 fresh lobsters
1 lemon (juice only)
2 sticks butter
2 cups champagne

Place lobster shell side down. Cut body from head to tail with sharp knife, splitting open. Remove heart and intestinal vein. Melt butter in sauce pan, and add lemon juice and champagne. Place split lobster shell side down on grill over medium heat approximately 5 inches from heat source. Brush well with champagne butter mixture, and cook for 8 minutes. Turn lobsters, cook for another 8 minutes. Turn again, brush well with champagne butter mixture, and continue to cook until meat turns opaque.

It is best to cook lobsters with the top of the grill down. Brush with champagne butter sauce just before serving. The remaining sauce can be used for dipping.

Barbecue Prawns with Fresh Corn Relish *Serves 4*

1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 teaspoon hot sauce
2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lime juice
3 cups fresh corn kernels, cooked
1 small red onion, diced
1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and finely diced
2 plum tomatoes, peeled, seeded and diced
2 tablespoons cider vinegar
3/4 cup olive oil, divided
1 tablespoon chopped cilantro
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
18 prawns
1/2 cup barbecue sauce
6 cups mesclun greens

Combine sour cream, hot sauce and lime juice in a small bowl, then set aside. In a separate bowl, toss together corn, onion, jalapeno, tomatoes, vinegar, olive oil (minus 2 tablespoons) and cilantro to create corn relish. Season to taste with salt and pepper, then set aside.

Thread the length of the prawns on skewer. Season lightly with salt and pepper. Brush with remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil. Place on hot grill for 30 seconds. Brush with barbecue sauce, and grill for 30 seconds longer. Turn prawns over, and brush with more barbecue sauce. Grill for 1 minute. Remove prawns from grill and cool slightly.

To serve, toss mesclun greens with some of the liquid from corn relish. Place a mound of greens in center of each plate. Arrange prawns over lettuce. Spoon corn relish in a band across prawns, and drizzle with dressing. Serve immediately.

Apple-Glazed Pork Kabobs *Serves 6*

2 tablespoons lemon juice
Salt, to taste
1 pound boneless pork loin, cut into 1-inch cubes
1 cup apple jelly
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 cup cinnamon
1 tablespoon butter

Sprinkle lemon juice and salt evenly over pork cubes. In small saucepan, make glaze by mixing together the jelly, lemon juice, cinnamon and butter. Simmer until well blended. Thread pork onto skewers and spoon glaze over all. Grill over hot coals 10 to 12 minutes, turning and basting frequently.

gardening

by **STEVE HUDDLESTON** and **PAMELA CRAWFORD**

Budget Gardening

SAVE MONEY ON PLANTS





FAR LEFT: Save money and still have a beautiful, full garden by learning how to propagate your plants. Garden: Mrs. Bill Taylor, Jr.

LEFT: This colorful garden includes many side-planted containers. A good way to get beautiful color in your yard and in the neighborhood it is to trade with your neighbors. Have everyone divide their perennials and trade with each other at a block party.

Straight from "Easy Gardens for North Central Texas" by Steve Huddleston and Pamela Crawford, these amazing tips will save you money and still have your garden looking beautiful this spring.

WAYS TO SAVE

• Buy the smallest size you can. A shrub in a one-gallon pot costs about a third as much as the same shrub in a 3-gallon pot.

• Buy annuals in multi-packs, such as an 18 pack. The roots of the plants are about three inches across. The same plant in a 4-inch pot is at least twice as much money, and it only takes about a week for the smaller plants to grow as large as the more expensive ones.

• Seeds are the cheapest way to buy new plants. Buy an old book from a used book supplier called "Park's Success with Seeds" by Ann Reilly. It will only cost a few dollars and it's the best book for fast and easy success with seeds.

• Learn how to propagate your plants. In most instances, it's easy. Learn how to do root cuttings, and you will have a gorgeous garden for nothing.

• Trade with your neighbors. Have everyone divide their perennials, trade with each other at a block party, and color your neighborhood.

• Look for local gardening events. Often, home growers sell plants cheaply.

• Abandoned properties that are scheduled to be cleared can be great places to find plants. Be sure to get permission from the owner. Check with your local city hall to find out how to find the owner's name.

• Space plants correctly. If you plant them too close, you waste a lot of money. For example, it takes four times as many plants for 1 foot spacing than for 2 foot spacing.

CHEAP WEED & PEST CONTROL

• Newspapers, cardboard or brown paper bags cut down on weeds until they disintegrate. Put them on top of the soil, wet them down (so they don't take water out of the soil), and cover them up with mulch.

• Before applying any homemade sprays to an entire plant, test one leaf to be sure the spray doesn't hurt the plant. Spray the top and bottom of one leaf and flower, and wait 24 hours. If no damage shows on the plant, spray the entire thing. Be sure to spray the tops and bottoms of the leaves.

• Soap and water works on aphids, mealybugs, mites and some scale and thrips. Mix 1 tablespoon Ivory liquid in a gallon of water.

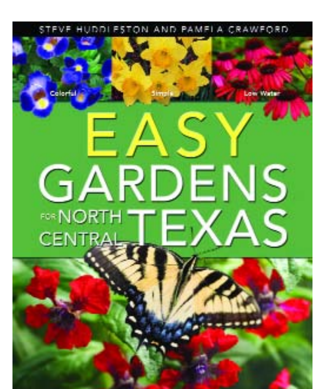
• Slugs and snails are attracted to beer. Sink a small can in the garden (so the top is level with the soil), and fill it with beer. The slugs and snails will drown in it.

• Salt spray works on spider mites. Mix 2 tablespoons of salt in a gallon of water.

• Make the leaves or flowers of the plant taste bad to any bug who tries to eat it. Mix some garlic cloves and hot peppers in your blender in a cup of water.

• For fungus and mildew, mix 1 tablespoon of baking soda and 3 tablespoons of vegetable oil in a gallon of water.

Authors: Pamela Crawford has written six gardening books and is one of the best-known container gardening experts in the country. Her work has been featured on the cover of Better Homes and Gardens, in Southern Living and HGTV Magazine, and in more than 50 newspapers. Visit her Web site at www.easygardencolor.com. Steve Huddleston is the senior horticulturist at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden.



This article was excerpted from "Easy Gardens for North Central Texas" by co-author Steve Huddleston and co-author and publisher Pamela Crawford. Purchase the book at Barnes & Noble, Home Depot, the Treasure Tree gift shop, Amazon.com and many botanical gardens and bookstores.

H&H

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REUNITE WITH AN OLD FRIEND, THE WRITING DESK



LEFT: This European tilework inspired secretary from Pottery Barn ($699) features a vibrant handpainted design. Cleverly styled to look like a dresser, the piece opens to reveal a workspace that’s perfectly sized for a laptop computer. Cubbies above and drawers below store supplies. It is framed in solid hardwood with veneer and has an unpainted top with an antique honey stain.



BoConcept USA’s walnut veneer desk, $739



LEFT: “Surfin’” eco-friendly, five-piece, no-tools-assembly desk shown in “Fire,” $425, InModern



“Riga” desk by Marc Newson for Cappellini, about $7,000. Find Cappellini products at Scott + Cooner.



RIGHT: “Treteaux” designed by Big-Game, available with black or white lacquer cutout trestles, $845 for two table supports, Ligne Roset



“Emily,” available in 40 colors, $1,290, Maine Cottage



George Nelson Swag Leg Desk, $1,619, Design Within Reach

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